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UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

089564

REGIONAL OFFICE FEDERAL BUILDING, 16th FLOOR WEST

230 SOUTH DEARBORN STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

7 APR 1976

Colonel Herbert B. Allen Commanding Officer Fort Sheridan, Illinois 60037

Dear Colonel Allen:

We recently surveyed cash management practices at several Federal agencies one of which was the U. S. Army Finance and Accounting Office (F&AO), Fort Sheridan, Illinois. We wanted to determine whether collections are deposited promptly, as required by Title 7 of the GAO manual, a practice which would decrease the need for borrowing by the U. S. Treasury and reduce interest costs to the Government.

The F&AO at Fort Sheridan collects an average of over \$1 million monthly. We could not determine the length of delays because the F&AO did not record when collections were received. However, F&AO staff advised us that processing of collections for deposit was delayed pending availability of staff time and some collections were held pending identification of accounting data.

Army regulations require (1) daily deposit of collections and (2) deposit to the suspense account pending identification of accounting data. We were advised that action would be taken to comply with the Army regulations and that a log of remittances received should be established for better control.

A concerted practice of daily deposit by Army Finance offices and other Federal agencies could help immensely to reduce the borrowing burden on the U. S. Treasury. We would appreciate being advised of corrective actions you carried out.

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A copy of this report is being sent to the Comptroller of the Army, Department of the Army, to consider what actions may be needed to promote prompt deposit of collections by all Army Finance Offices.

Thank you for the cooperation extended to our representatives during the survey.

Sincerely yours,

W. J. Schad

W. J. Schad Acting Regional Manager